

U.S. Patent Application of

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relating to

A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RECEIVING A SIGNAL

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A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RECEIVING A SIGNAL

Field of the Invention

This invention generally relates to a spread spectrum receiver, and more specifically to a multimode operation of the receiver using a shared circuitry hardware configuration.

Background of the Invention

1. Field of technology and problem formulation

It is desirable to have a spread spectrum receiver capable of receiving at least two (or more) types of code division multiple access (CDMA) signals. For example, dual mode GPS (global positioning system)/Galileo receivers must be able to receive both GPS and Galileo signals simultaneously. An obvious approach used so far is combining a GPS receiver and a Galileo receiver, so that some hardware receiving channels are dedicated to receive a GPS signal, and some channels are dedicated to receive a Galileo signal. For example, a 16-channel receiver can have 8 GPS channels and 8 Galileo channels. However, in some situations it might be desirable to receive e.g., 12 Galileo signals and 4 GPS signals due to DOP (dilution of precision) or signal blocking conditions. With the 8 GPS channels plus 8 Galileo channels hardware this is impossible. Therefore, a more flexible multimode operation of the spread spectrum receiver and hardware architecture is desirable.

2. Prior art

An example of a prior art solution is demonstrated in Figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 is a block diagram representing one example of a typical operation of a global navigation satellite system receiver 10 with dedicated M GPS receiving channel blocks 16-1, 16-2, ..., 16-M and dedicated N Galileo receiving channel blocks 18-1, 18-2, ..., 18-N, wherein M is an integer of at least a value of one and N is an integer of at least a value of one. Typical operation includes receiving the radio frequency signal and converting said radio frequency signal to a radio frequency electrical signal 11a by an antenna 11 followed by converting said radio frequency electrical signal

11a to a digital intermediate frequency (IF) signal 14 by a preprocessor 12 and providing said digital IF signal 14 to the dedicated M GPS receiving channel blocks 16-1, 16-2, ..., 16-M and to the dedicated N Galileo receiving channel blocks 18-1, 18-2, ..., 18-N, which normally exchange information with the receiver processing
5 block 22 during their operation.

Figure 2 is a block diagram representing an example of one of the dedicated GPS receiving channel blocks 16-1, 16-2, ..., 16-M or the dedicated Galileo receiving channel blocks 18-1, 18-2, ..., 18-N shown in Figure 1. As seen from Figure 2, the only difference between the GPS receiving channel blocks 16-1, 16-2, ..., 16-M and the Galileo receiving channel blocks 18-1, 18-2, ..., 18-N is in a code generating
10 block 24 which uses a dedicated GPS code generator 28-1 for generating a GPS code signal 42 in case of the GPS receiving channel blocks 16-1, 16-2, ..., 16-M and a dedicated Galileo code generator 28-2 for generating a Galileo code signal 44 in case of the Galileo receiving channel blocks 18-1, 18-2, ..., 18-N, respectively. All other
15 components including an integrating and damping block 32 and a residual carrier removing block 25 as well as a frequency control signal 34, a code control signal 38, a data intermediate signal 36, a code and carrier measurement signal 37 and dump signals 46-1, 46-2, ..., 46-P (P is an integer of at least a value of one) perform identical functions for both GPS and Galileo receiving channel blocks 16-1, 16-2, ...,
20 16-M, 18-1, 18-2, ..., 18-N.

Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate only one example for implementing the global navigation satellite system receiver 10 per the prior art. It is noted that details incorporated in blocks 12 and 16-1, 16-2, ..., 16-M, 18-1, 18-2, ..., or 18-N are provided for reference only and represent only one example among many others for
25 implementation of these blocks.

Summary of the Invention

It is now invented a novel method for providing a multimode operation of a spread spectrum receiver, e.g., a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver, using a shared circuitry hardware configuration of said receiver.

30 According to a first aspect of the invention, a multimode spread spectrum receiver with a shared circuitry operation, capable of receiving at least two types of

code division multiple access (CDMA) signals, comprises: an antenna, responsive to a radio frequency signal containing said at least two types of code division multiple access (CDMA) signals, for providing a radio frequency electrical signal; a preprocessor, responsive to the radio frequency electrical signal, for providing a digital signal; and at least one multimode receiving channel block, responsive to the digital signal and selecting, based on a predetermined selection criteria, one of at least two types of coding corresponding to one of said at least two types code division multiple access (CDMA) signals and utilizing said coding for further processing of said digital signal by said at least one multimode receiving block using said shared circuitry operation.

According further to the first aspect of the invention, the digital signal may be a digital intermediate frequency signal, said selection may be performed by the at least one multimode receiving channel block in response to a mode selection signal or to a mode-generating selection signal and finally said at least one multimode receiving channel block may generate, based on said selection, and provide internally one of the at least two code signals to said at least one multimode receiving channel block for implementing said further processing. Further, the at least one multimode receiving channel block may be further responsive to a code control signal and providing a code and carrier measurement signal. Still further, the multimode receiver may further comprise a receiver processing block, responsive to the code and carrier measurement signal, for providing the code control signal, a frequency control signal, and the mode selection signal or the mode-generating selection signal. Yet still further, the multimode receiver may further comprise: a residual carrier removing block, responsive to the digital intermediate frequency signal, for providing a data intermediate signal; and an integration and dumping block responsive to the data intermediate signal, to said one of the at least two code signals, for providing P dump signals to the receiver processing block, wherein P is an integer of at least a value of one.

Further according to the first aspect of the invention, the at least one multimode receiving channel block may comprise: a code numerically controlled oscillator block, responsive to the code control signal, for providing a numerically controlled oscillator clock signal; a first code generator, responsive to the numerically controlled oscillator clock signal, for providing a first one of the at least two code

signals for a corresponding first one of the at least two types of the code division multiple access receiver processing; a second code generator responsive to the numerically controlled oscillator clock signal, for providing a second one of the at least two code signals for a corresponding second one of the at least two types of the code division multiple access receiver processing; and a code selector, responsive to the mode selection signal, to said first one of the at least two code signals and to said second one of the at least two code signals, for providing said first one of the at least two code signals or said second one of the at least two code signals, selected by the code selector based on the mode selection signal, for further processing by the at least one multimode receiving channel block using said shared circuitry operation. Further, the first code generator, the second code generator or both code generators may contain binary offset carrier capabilities. Yet still further, the first one of the at least two code signals may be for global positioning system receiver processing and the second one of the at least two code signals may be for Galileo receiver processing.

Still further according to the first aspect of the invention, the at least one multimode receiving channel block may comprise: a code numerically controlled oscillator block responsive to the code control signal, for providing a numerically controlled oscillator clock signal; and a universal code generator, responsive to the numerically controlled oscillator clock signal and to the mode-generating selection signal, for generating and providing, based on the mode-generating selection signal, a first one of the at least two code signals for a corresponding first one of the at least two types of the code division multiple access receiver processing or a second one of the at least two code signals for a corresponding second one of the at least two types of the code division multiple access receiver processing for further processing by the at least one multimode receiving channel block using said shared circuitry operation. Further still, the universal code generator may contain binary offset carrier capabilities.

According further to the first aspect of the invention, the receiver may be a multimode global navigation satellite system receiver. Yet still further, a first one of the at least two code signals may be for global positioning system receiver processing and a second one of the at least two code signals may be for Galileo receiver processing.

According to a second aspect of the invention, a method for a shared circuitry operation of a multimode spread spectrum receiver, capable of receiving at least two types of code division multiple access signals, comprises: receiving the radio frequency signal containing said at least two types of code division multiple access signals by an antenna of the multimode spread spectrum receiver and converting said radio frequency signal to a radio frequency electrical signal; converting the radio frequency electrical signal to a digital signal by a preprocessor of the multimode spread spectrum receiver and providing said digital signal to the at least one multimode receiving channel block; and selecting by at least one multimode receiving channel block, based on a predetermined selection criteria, one of at least two types of coding corresponding to one of said at least two types code division multiple access signals and utilizing said coding for further processing of said digital signal by said at least one multimode receiving block using said shared circuitry operation. Further, the digital signal may be a digital intermediate frequency signal, said selection may be performed by the at least one multimode receiving channel block in response to a mode selection signal or to a mode-generating selection signal and finally said at least one multimode receiving channel block may generate, based on said selection, and provide internally one of the at least two code signals to said at least one multimode receiving channel block for implementing said further processing.

According further to the second aspect of the invention, the selection by at least one multimode receiving block, based on a predetermined selection criteria, of one of at least two types of coding may comprise: generating a first one of the at least two code signals for a corresponding first one of the at least two types of the code division multiple access receiver processing by a first code generator and generating a second one of the at least two code signals for a corresponding second one of the at least two types of the code division multiple access receiver processing by a second code generator and providing said first one of the at least two code signals and said second one of the at least two code signals to a code selector of the at least one multimode receiving channel block, wherein said first one of the at least two code signals and said second one of the at least two code signals are parts of said at least one multimode receiving channel block; selecting said first one of the at least two code signals or said second one of the at least two code signals by the code selector; and providing the selected said first one of the at least two code signals or said second

one of the at least two code signals for further processing by the at least one multimode receiving channel block using said shared circuitry operation. Further, said selecting of said first one of the at least two code signals or said second one of the at least two code signals by the code selector may be based on the mode selection signal
 5 provided to the code selector by a receiver processing block.

Further according to the second aspect of the invention, before generating the first one of the at least two code signals and the second one of the at least two code signals, the method may further comprise: providing a code control signal to a code numerically controlled oscillator block of the at least one multimode receiving
 10 channel block; and generating, in response to said code control signal, a numerically controlled oscillator clock signal by the code numerically controlled oscillator block and providing the numerically controlled oscillator clock signal to the first code generator and to the second code generator. Further, said code control signal may be provided to the code numerically controlled oscillator block by a receiver processing
 15 block. Still further,

Still further according to the second aspect of the invention, the further processing may be performed by an integrating and dumping block of the at least one multimode receiving channel block. Further, before providing the code control signal, the method may further comprise: generating a data intermediate signal by removing a
 20 residual carrier frequency from the digital intermediate frequency signal by a residual carrier removing block of the at least one multimode receiving channel block and providing said data intermediate signal to the integrating and dumping block for further processing.

According further to the second aspect of the invention, the selection by at
 25 least one multimode receiving block, based on a predetermined selection criteria, of one of at least two types of coding may comprise: generating a first one of the at least two code signals for a corresponding first one of the at least two types of the code division multiple access receiver processing or a second one of the at least two code signals for a corresponding second one of the at least two types of the code division
 30 multiple access receiver processing by a universal code generator of the at least one multimode receiving channel block; and providing the first one of the at least two code signals or the second one of the at least two code signals by the universal code generator for further processing by the at least one multimode receiving channel block

using said shared circuitry operation. Further, generating the first one of the at least two code signals or the second one of the at least two code signals by the universal code generator may be based on the mode-generating selection signal provided to the universal code generator by a receiver processing block. Still further, before

5 generating the first one of the at least two code signals and the second one of the at least two code signals, the method may further comprise: providing a code control signal to a code numerically controlled oscillator block of the at least one multimode receiving channel block; and generating, in response to said code control signal, a numerically controlled oscillator clock signal by the code numerically controlled
10 oscillator block and providing the numerically controlled oscillator clock signal to the universal code generator. Yet still further, said code control signal may be provided to the code numerically controlled oscillator block by a receiver processing block.

According still further to the second aspect of the invention, the further processing may be performed by an integrating and dumping block of the at least one
15 multimode receiving channel block. Further, before providing the code control signal, the method may further comprise: generating a data intermediate signal by removing a residual carrier frequency from the digital intermediate frequency signal by a residual carrier removing block of the at least one multimode receiving channel block and providing said data intermediate signal to the integrating and dumping block for
20 further processing.

According further still to the second aspect of the invention, said receiver may be a multimode global navigation satellite system receiver. Still further, a first one of the at least two code signals may be for global positioning system receiver processing and a second one of the at least two code signals may be for Galileo receiver
25 processing.

According to a third aspect of the invention, a computer program product comprises: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor with said computer program code characterized in that it includes instructions for performing the steps of the method of
30 the second aspect indicated as being performed by the multimode spread spectrum receiver, or by the multimode receiving channel block of said spread spectrum receiver, or by a terminal containing said spread spectrum receiver.

According to a fourth aspect of the invention, a system for communicating at least two types of code division multiple access signals received by a multimode spread spectrum receiver with a shared circuitry operation, comprises: at least one satellite, for providing said at least two types of code division multiple access signals, or at least two satellites each providing one of said at least two types of the code division multiple access signals; at least one base station, for providing said at least two types of the code division multiple access signals used for mobile communications; and a terminal, responsive to said at least two different types of the code division multiple access signals, wherein said terminal containing said multimode spread spectrum receiver capable of receiving said at least two types of code division multiple access signals using at least one multimode receiving channel block, responsive to the digital signal indicative of one of said at least two different types of the code division multiple access signals and selecting, based on a predetermined selection criteria, one of at least two types of coding corresponding to said one of the at least two types code division multiple access signals and utilizing said coding for further processing of said digital signal by said at least one multimode receiving block using said shared circuitry operation.

According to a fifth aspect of the invention, a multimode receiving module with a shared circuitry operation capable of receiving at least two types of code division multiple access signals and contained in a multimode spread spectrum receiver, comprises: at least one multimode receiving channel block, responsive to the digital signal containing one of said at least two types of the code division multiple access signals and selecting, based on a predetermined selection criteria, one of at least two types of coding corresponding to said one of at least two types code division multiple access signals and utilizing said coding for further processing of said digital signal by said at least one multimode receiving block using said shared circuitry operation, wherein said multimode receiving module is removable from said multimode spread spectrum receiver.

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a better understanding of the nature and objects of the present invention, reference is made to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the following drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a block diagram representing an example of a global navigation satellite system receiver with dedicated GPS and Galileo receiving channel blocks, according to the prior art.

Figure 2 is a block diagram representing an example of a dedicated GPS receiving channel block or a Galileo receiving channel block, according to the prior art.

Figure 3 is a block diagram representing an example of a multimode global navigation satellite system receiver with a shared circuitry operation, capable of generating and providing GPS or Galileo code signals, according to the present invention.

Figure 4 is a block diagram representing an example of a multimode receiving channel block, a part of a multimode global navigation satellite system receiver, with a shared circuitry operation, capable of generating and providing a GPS code signal or a Galileo code signal, according to the present invention.

Figure 5 is a block diagram representing an alternative example for a code generating block of a multimode receiving channel block, according to the present invention.

Figure 6 shows an example of a flow chart for generating and providing a GPS code signal or a Galileo code signal by a multimode receiving channel block with a shared circuitry operation, according to the present invention.

Figure 7 shows an alternative example of a flow chart for generating and providing a GPS code signal or a Galileo code signal by a code generating block of a multimode receiving channel block, according to the present invention.

Figure 8 shows an example of a terminal with a spread spectrum multimode CDMA receiver using a shared circuitry hardware configuration of the receiver for multimode operation processing of different types of code division multiple access (CDMA) signals from satellites or a base station.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention provides a method for a flexible multimode operation of spread spectrum receivers, e.g., global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receivers

using a shared circuitry hardware configuration of the receiver for processing of different types of code division multiple access (CDMA) signals. According to said method the receiver utilizes shared channel circuitry to receive signals from different satellite systems providing a flexible multimode operation. The present invention

5 provides a way to select the received signal type (e.g., GPS or Galileo) for each channel. By replacing the dedicated GPS/Galileo channels with multimode channels suitable to both receiver signals or, in a general case, by replacing the dedicated channels with multimode channels suitable to multiple types (more than two) of receiver signals, the receiver is more flexible to operate in varying reception

10 conditions. By utilizing shared channel circuitry the hardware size is kept small.

Figure 3 is a block diagram representing one example among others of a multimode global navigation satellite system receiver **10a** with a shared circuitry operation, capable of generating and providing GPS or Galileo code signals, according to the present invention. The key difference between Figure 3 and Figure 1

15 describing the prior art is that the dedicated GPS receiving channel blocks **16-1, 16-2, ..., 16-M** and the Galileo receiving channel blocks **18-1, 18-2, ..., 18-N** of Figure 1 are substituted by multimode receiving channel blocks **20-1, 20-2, ..., 20-K** (**K** is an integer of at least a value of one), each capable of both GPS and Galileo signal processing.

20 Figure 4 is a block diagram representing one example among many others of a multimode receiving channel block **20-1, 20-2, ..., or 20-K** with a shared circuitry operation, capable of generating and providing a GPS code signal **42** or a Galileo code signal **44**, according to the present invention. Again, the key difference between Figure 4 and Figure 2 describing the prior art is that the multimode receiving channel

25 block **20-1, 20-2, ..., or 20-K** has a modified code generation block **24a** instead of the block **24**. The code generation block **24a** consists of a code numerically controlled oscillator (NCO) block **26**, which generates a numerically controlled oscillator (NCO) clock signal **40** in response to the code control signal **38** from the receiver processing block **22** as in the prior art. But then said NCO clock signal **40** is provided to both a

30 GPS code generator **28a** and to a Galileo code generator **28b**. The GPS code generator **28a** and a Galileo code generator **28b** generate a GPS code signal **42** and a Galileo code signal **44**, respectively, and provide both signals **42** and **44** to a code

selector **30**. The code selector **30** selects the GPS code signal **42** or the Galileo code signal **44** based on a mode selection signal **31** provided to the code selector **30** by the receiver processing block **22**. Finally, the selected GPS code signal **42** or the Galileo code signal **44** is provided to the integrating and dumping block **32** which performs
 5 further processing as in the prior art (see Figure 2).

Figure 5 is a block diagram representing an alternative example among others for implementing of a code generating block **24b** of a multimode receiving channel block **20-1, 20-2, ..., or 20-K** with a shared circuitry operation, capable of generating and providing the GPS code signal **42** or the Galileo code signal **44**, according to the
 10 present invention. The difference between the block **24b** and the block **24a** of Figure 4 is that a universal code generator **28c** of the block **24b** shown in Figure 5 performs the functions performed by the blocks **28a, 28b** and **30** of Figure 4. In particular, the NCO clock signal **40** is provided by the code NCO block **26** only to the universal code generator **28c**, which generates the GPS code signal **42** or the Galileo code
 15 signal **44** based on a mode-generating selection signal **33** provided to the universal code generator **28c** by the receiver processing block **22**. And finally, the generated GPS code signal **42** or the Galileo code signal **44** is provided to the integrating and dumping block **32** which performs further processing as in the prior art (see Figure 2).

Figure 6 shows an example of a flow chart for generating and providing the
 20 GPS code signal **42** or the Galileo code signal **44** by the multimode receiving channel block **20-1, 20-2, ..., or 20-K** with the shared circuitry operation as shown in Figure 4, according to the present invention. The flow chart of Figure 6 represents only one possible scenario among others. In a method according to the present invention, in a first step **50**, the radio frequency signal is received by the antenna **11** and converted to
 25 the radio frequency electrical signal **11a**. In a next step **52**, said radio frequency electrical signal **11a** is converted to a digital intermediate frequency signal **24** by a preprocessor **12** and provided to the residual carrier removing (RCR) block **25** of the multimode receiving channel block **20-1, 20-2, ..., or 20-K**. In a next step **54**, the RCR block **25** removes a residual carrier frequency from the digital IF signal **14** using
 30 the frequency control signal **34** provided to the RCR block **25** by the receiver processing block **22** thus generating the data intermediate signal **36** and providing said signal **36** to the integrating and dumping block **32** for further processing. In a next

step 55, the code control signal 38 is provided to the code NCO block 26 by the receiver processing block 22. In a next step 56, the NCO block 26 generates the NCO clock signal 40 in response to the code control signal 38 from the receiver processing block 22 and provides said NCO clock signal 40 to both the GPS code generator 28a and to the Galileo code generator 28b. In a next step 58, the GPS code generator 28a and a Galileo code generator 28b generate the GPS code signal 42 and the Galileo code signal 44, respectively, and provide both signals 42 and 44 to the code selector 30. In a next step 60, the code selector 30 selects the GPS code signal 42 or the Galileo code signal 44 based on the mode selection signal 31 provided to the code selector 30 by the receiver processing block 22. In a next step 62, the selected GPS code signal 42 or the Galileo code signal 44 is provided to the integrating and dumping block 32 of the multimode receiving channel block 20-1, 20-2, ..., or 20-K for further processing. Finally, in a next step 64, dump signals 46-1, 46-2, ..., 46-P are generated, in response to the signals 42 or 44 and to the data intermediate signal 36, and provided to the receiver processing block 22.

Figure 7 shows an alternative example among many others of a flow chart for generating and providing the GPS code signal 42 or the Galileo code signal 44 by the multimode receiving channel block 20-1, 20-2, ..., or 20-K with the shared circuitry operation as shown in Figure 5, according to the present invention. First four steps 50 through 55 are the same as in Figure 6 and are described above. In a next step 66, the NCO block 26 generates the NCO clock signal 40 in response to the code control signal 38 from the receiver processing block 22 and provides the NCO clock signal 40 to the universal code generator 28c. In a next step 68, the mode-generating selection signal 33 is provided to the universal code generator 28c by the receiver processing block 22. In a next step 70, the code generator 28c generates the GPS code signal 42 or the Galileo code signal 44 in response to the mode-generating selection signal 33. The last two steps 62 and 64 are the same as in Figure 6 and are described above.

There are many variations of the scenarios described above, according to the present invention. For example, the code generator blocks 28a, 28b and 28c can also include binary offset carrier (BOC) generation. Also, it is not necessary that all channels are multimode channels as presented in Figure 3. It is also possible to have a mixture of dedicated channels and multimode channels.

Although GPS and Galileo satellite navigation systems have been used as an example in the description, it is obvious that the present invention can be used equally well with other navigation systems or more generally to any communication system utilizing a multimode spread spectrum receiver. An example of such a system is

5 shown in Figure 8. A terminal (or a user equipment, UE) **72** is a communication device, such as a mobile device or a mobile phone, containing a multimode CDMA receiver **73** according to the present invention. The multimode CDMA receiver **73** can be, for instance, the multimode global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver **10a** described in the examples of Figures 3 through 7. Moreover, said multimode

10 CDMA receiver **73** contains a multimode receiving module **74** with the key innovation as described in the present invention. The block **74** can be built as a removable unit. The multimode receiving module **74** can be, for example, a combination of blocks **20-1**, **20-2**, ..., and **20-K** as presented in Figure 3 for the multimode GNSS receiver **10a**. Figure 8 shows at least two satellites (e.g., GPS

15 application typically requires 3 satellites) **76** sending two different types of CDMA signals, CDMA 1 and CDMA 2 satellite signals **80a** and **80b**, respectively, to the CDMA receiver **73**. Figure 8 also shows a base station **78**, which communicates with the terminal **72** by sending, e.g., a mobile CDMA communication signal **82a** to the multimode CDMA receiver **73** and receiving back the outgoing communication signal

20 **82b** from the terminal **72**. Said signal **82a** can be of various CDMA types and is processed by the multimode receiving module as described in the present invention.

As explained above, the invention provides both a method and corresponding equipment consisting of various modules providing the functionality for performing the steps of the method. The modules may be implemented as hardware, or may be

25 implemented as software or firmware for execution by a processor. In particular, in the case of firmware or software, the invention can be provided as a computer program product including a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code, i.e. the software or firmware thereon for execution by a computer processor provided with the terminal **72**, with the CDMA receiver **73** (e.g.,

30 multimode global navigation satellite system receiver **10a**) or with the multimode receiving module **74** (e.g., multimode receiving channel blocks **20-1**, **20-2**, ... and **20-K**).